Telephone Director for Calcutta

873. SHRI ASHOK MITRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in terms of the commitments made on the floor of the House during the Budget Session, a Directory will be made available to the telephone subscribers in Calcutta before the end of the year ;

(b) if the commitment is unlikely to be met, the reasons for this failure ; and

(c) whether any disciplinary proceedings are contemplated against persons responsible for such gross breach of ministerial commitment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The commitment is likely to be met, as the printers, M/s Saraswaty Press Ltd. has committed to start the delivery of copies of the telephone directories in the last week of December, 1994.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Collaboration with Multinationals

874. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many collaborations have been approved by Government for Cellular phones and other fields of Telecommunication together with their names;

(b) whether it is a fact that number of Multinationals have withdrawn from the collaboration, due to delay in framing the regulations by Government after the announcement of new Telecom Policy;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware about the reported news item in Door darshan Business News on 7th November, 1994, that number of foreign collaborators have withdrawn from the field and are diverting the investment to China; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Regnlatory Authority for Telecom Sector

875. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the setting up of the proposed regulatory authority for the Telecom sector;

(b) the broad features about its administrative, technical and expansion of basis telecom service;

(c) the role proposed to be assigned to the private sector;

(d) the progress made so far in entrusting the private sector in the radio paging networks and the introduction of cellular phone system in some of the metropolitan cities to start with; and

(e) which is the bidder for radio paging selected for Karnataka and how long will it take him to start operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.